

It is important that we join together to protect and enhance the natural, cultural and historical resources which are integral to the identity of America.

HONORING SAM HOGLE

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Sam Hogle from Marietta, Georgia, for achieving the highest honor for a Boy Scout, the rank of Eagle Scout.

As a Boy Scout myself, I know that achieving this rank is a significant moment in the life of any young man. However, in Sam's case, the accomplishment is even more inspiring because Sam was born blind. This circumstance could have added a significant obstacle to his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. However, Sam would not let it get in his way, calling his blindness an inconvenience, but not a disability that could keep him from achieving his dream.

Armed with this positive attitude and incredible determination, Sam has become an excellent student, an Eagle Scout, and an asset to his community.

Sam's Eagle Scout project shows exactly what kind of young man he is. For his project, Sam planned, raised the funds, and led a campout for visually impaired boys. He wanted these boys to learn that they could also enjoy the outdoors and experience the same kind of fun and learning that he has by being a Boy Scout.

For many of these middle school boys, it is their first campout. Sam's campout was extremely successful. The boys had a wonderful, wonderful time. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sam Hogle on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

HONORING GEORGE W. "BOB" GILL

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of George W. "Bob" Gill, an extraordinary resident of my congressional district who helped build Fort Lauderdale into the world-renowned tourism destination it is today.

Tourism is the economic engine of south Florida, and Mr. Gill was a pioneer in the field. After opening six area hotels over 60 years, he even earned the nickname "the Dean of Fort Lauderdale tourism." Mr. Gill had a knack for marketing and a sharp business sense. His ideas helped to bring vacationing northerners to enjoy Fort Lauderdale's beautiful beaches. He created some of the most iconic hotels in south Florida, including the Yankee Clipper and the Jolly Roger, the first hotels in the area to offer air-conditioning way back in 1952.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gill lived a long and rich life, passing away last week at

the age of 93. Our thoughts and prayers are with his daughter Linda and all the friends and family that Mr. Gill left behind. He left an enduring legacy on south Florida, and Mr. Gill will be missed.

SALVADORAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the Salvadoran presidential elections will be held on March 15. If the FMLN wins the election, it would be devastating for the people of El Salvador as well as for the relationship between our two countries.

FMLN party leadership is expected to follow the anti-U.S. agenda of Venezuela's radical president, Hugo Chavez, and join Cuba in a pro-Chavez, pro-Cuba, pro-Iran axis.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the FMLN is a pro-terrorist party with direct ties to sponsors of terror. After the 9/11 attacks, they marched in their capital city to celebrate the attack by al Qaeda, and they burned the American flag. The leader of that march was Salvador Sanchez Ceren, who is now the FMLN's candidate for vice president.

Mr. Speaker, should the pro-terrorist FMLN party replace the current government in El Salvador, the United States, in the interest of national security, would be required to re-evaluate our policy toward El Salvador, including cash remittance and immigration policies, to compensate for the fact there will no longer be a reliable counterpart in the Salvadoran government.

It is my hope that the El Salvadoran people continue the history of a positive relationship between our two countries and ensure that they elect pro-freedom, pro-peace, life-loving officials to their government.

PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I would like to follow up on what my colleague said. There is a real problem down in Central America. We have a communist government in Nicaragua controlled by the Ortigas. We have in Venezuela Mr. Chavez. And we also have other countries down there, like Bolivia with Mr. Morales that are moving to the left. If El Salvador moves to the left like that, I think it is going to be very bad for not only that part of the world but the entire hemisphere.

But I would like to point out one thing. If I were talking to the people of El Salvador, they get \$4 billion a year in money coming from the United States into their country to help the people who live down there. That money, in my opinion, will be cut dramatically if they elect a leftist government. Those moneys coming from here

to there I am confident will be cut, and I hope that the people of El Salvador are aware of that because it will have a tremendous impact on individuals and their economy.

□ 1545

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, men, women and children came together to celebrate International Women's Day. Since 1909, government civic groups and local communities have taken time to reflect on the role of women and the unique challenges that we face.

This year, the women of Iraq find themselves still facing hard odds, great odds, even with the decline in violence. Many women still are displaced from their homes, from their employment, and their communities. Their children still lack the basic necessities of clean water, electricity, health care, and access to education. Every day is an act of heroism for those women.

All too often, the role of women is ignored or undervalued. Fortunately, our new Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, has placed a high priority on women's participation at all levels of decision-making. The Secretary has selected eight outstanding women to be honored as recipients of the International Women of Courage Award. This is the only award within the Department of State that pays tribute to outstanding women leaders worldwide. It recognizes the courage and leadership shown as they struggle for social justice and for human rights.

One of these women is an exceptional Iraqi woman, Suaad Allami. Ms. Allami is a prominent lawyer who fights against the erosion of women's rights and defends the most disadvantaged. She founded the NGO Women for Progress and the Sadr City Women's Center, which offers free medical care, literacy education, vocational training, and legislative advocacy. Few of us, Mr. Speaker, can imagine the indescribable challenges of women in her position.

U.S. diplomatic and military officials have lauded her for many things, including her bravery. And they always point to her work outside the Green Zone. The State Department actually pointed to one shining example of her work: When Ms. Allami learned about the extent of alleged human rights abuses at Kadhamiya Women's Prison, she boldly conducted an unannounced